Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title of the application with the following amended title:

Process for Processing Organic Waste

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] The slurry is formed into a shape and dried into a solid. The shape may be merely a mound or irregular sheet formed manually on a plate. However, a mold with at least a bottom and sides will produce a solid of more uniform shape and size. For example, Figure 2A shows a brick 10 formed manually on a sheet. Such a brick 10 may also be formed in a mold and may be made with a height of between about 1 and 5 cm, a depth of between about 4 and 10 cm and a length of between about 10 and 25 cm. Such a brick 10 is a pleasant weight, size and shape to handle and ~~can~~ may be densely packed into boxes or piles easily. However, such a brick 10 takes a significant amount of time to dry throughout and its sides 12 may become slightly dished during drying. Figure 2B shows various bricks or solids of different shapes 10A-10I. The brick in the upper left hand corner of Figure 2B, designated as 10I, has holes through it from top to bottom ~~which~~ that reduces the required drying time and distortion to the sides while drying. Figure 3 shows a plate 14 that dries faster and more evenly than the brick 10. The plate 14 may be between about 3 mm and 2 cm thick, is pierced with holes 16 and has an undulating upper surface 18 and lower surface 20. The plate 14 is formed in a mesh-walled mold and the distance that water vapor needs to travel to leave the plate 14 is shorter and more nearly constant than for the brick 10. Outcomes may also be formed in a range of other shapes such as briquettes, flat sheets of between about 3 mm and 2 cm thick, granules, fibers or flakes. In addition to simple or mesh-sided molds, the desired shapes may be formed in other devices such as isostatic compacting presses, powder compacting equipment, or tableting or uniaxial presses. Compacters or presses may also be used to form the dry pieces of organic matter directly into a generally solid shape either with or without adding water or a binder to the pieces. Pressing the slurry into a porous mold also aids in drying the solid. If desired, the user could also use the slurry itself as an outcome, although it will be an outcome of short duration.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] In the absence of any special equipment, the processes above ~~can~~ may be performed using common kitchen appliances. For example, to perform the process of Figure 1, Column A, the user may place organic waste into a blender. The user turns the blender on until the user ~~can~~ may see that the organic matter has been chopped into small pieces. The user may drop any additives into the blender while the organic matter is being chopped. The user then pours the pieces out of the blender onto a cooking sheet and heats them in an oven until they are dry. When the pieces are dry, the user takes the cooking sheet out of the oven and dumps the dry pieces into a bag, bucket or other container. The process of Figure 1, Column B ~~can~~ may be performed in essentially the same way except that the user pours water into the blender with the organic waste. After the organic matter is chopped up, the user ~~can~~ may remove the liquid water by allowing the pieces of organic matter to settle and then pouring excess water out of the top of the blender. Alternately, the user ~~can~~ may pour the contents of the blender into a sieve and keep only the retained pieces of organic matter. To perform the process of Figure 1, Column C, the user may collect the dry pieces of organic matter in a mixing bowl. The user then pours in water, a binder and any desired additives, places the beaters of a mixer into the bowl and turns the mixer on until a slurry forms. The user may then pour the slurry into a bread or cake pan and put it in an oven for drying. Once dry, the user takes the pan out of the oven and turns it over so that the solid drops out. For the process of Figure 4, the user may place water and organic matter in a blender and turn the blender on to reduce the organic matter to pieces. If necessary, supernatant water ~~can~~ may again be poured ~~of~~off the top of the blender or the contents of the blender strained to remove liquid water. The user then pours the pieces of organic matter into a mixing bowl. If the pieces are too dry at this point for mixing with the binder, then the user adds water as necessary. The user then completes the process as described for the end of the process of Figure 1, Column C. In all of these processes, if the user wishes to collect a certain amount of raw organic matter before processing it, the user may keep odors low while accumulating the waste organic matter by collecting it in a sealed container or in a container kept cool in a refrigerator or frozen in a freezer.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] The paste is transferred to a sieve or cheesecloth and pressed by hand to release water. The ~~water-reduced~~water-reduced paste is then transferred to a flat cooking sheet and formed, for example by hand or with a spatula, into a block or other shape. The cooking sheet and shape are placed in an oven heated to between 200 and 300F for about 30 minutes. After this time, the shape is retrieved from the oven and pressed further into a smaller or more geometric shape. The solid may be re-shaped since the flour or other parts of the mixture will have started to bind or coagulate making a shape easier to form. Also, air pockets may have formed that may be released allowing a smaller shape. Holes, for example holes of about 0.5 cm diameter spaced roughly 1 to 2 cm apart, may be poked through the shape with a dowel at this stage to speed future drying. The shape is returned to the oven. The oven is turned off, but the door left closed allowing the shape to dry as the oven loses heat to the environment.

Please replace paragraph **[0047]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] In all of the processes described above, water released in some steps may be recycled for use in other steps. For example, water is released as a liquid or vapor during drying steps and as a liquid during steps of removing liquid water or adjusting the moisture content of pieces of organic matter. This water may be collected and used, for example, in steps of adding water, or mixing pieces of organic waste with water. In general, the steps that require water precede the steps in which water is released. Accordingly, an initial supply of water is required to perform a first batch, if a process is performed wholly or partially as a batch process, or to start a continuous process and run a continuous process before recycled water is available. Although an initial supply of water may be required, the processes produce water overall since the moisture content of the organic matter is reduced. For this reason, not all releases of water need to be captured to sustain a repeated batch or continuous process. For example, vapors produced during drying steps may be captured since they provide relatively clean water ~~which can~~ that may be stored without further treatment until required without excessive growth of microorganisms in the water. Alternately, recycling water released in steps of removing liquid water or adjusting the water content of the pieces of organic matter reduces the amount of dissolved or very small pieces or organic matter that are not captured by the process. However,

this water may ~~required~~ require treatment, such as UV or chemical disinfection or refrigeration, if it will be stored for extended periods of time before reuse and may ~~required~~ require adjustment, for example by filtration, clarification or other separation processes, to prevent it from becoming highly concentrated with organic matter. Organic matter separated from the recycled water may itself be recycled to and re-enter the process as collected organic matter.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] Figures 5 to 8 show an apparatus 30 for producing solid outcomes. Referring first to Figure 5, the apparatus 30 has a receiving module 32 for collecting organic waste. The receiving module 32 has a base 34 and sides 36 ~~which~~ that create an internal space for collecting and holding waste. A lid 38 is hinged to one of the sides 36 and ~~can~~may be closed to generally seal the space inside the receiving module 32 or opened to allow the user to insert waste. The lid 38 may seal the space inside of the receiving module 32 to a sufficient degree so that odors are not sensed by users from organic matter that may remain in the receiving module 32 for most of a day. The lid 38 is balanced to remain open when fully opened and has a finger depression 40 to allow the user to lift it. A handle 42 flips up or down for carrying. When the handle 42 is down it does not protrude beyond the sides 36 of the receiving module 32. An apparatus 30 may have a plurality of receiving modules 32. The receiving modules 32 may be dispersed throughout a household or business, and kept at collection points in a kitchen, dining room, bathroom or wherever organic waste is produced. The receiving module 32 may have an exterior made of stainless steel or other attractive and safe materials. Many other shapes may also be used for the receiving module 32. For example, in some embodiments, the handle 42 may protrude from beyond the sides 36. Two handles 42 may be used on opposed sides 36 to make the receiving module 32 ambidextrous. The receiving module ~~36~~32 may be made to have a removable lid 38 and height, for example of 25 cm or less, such that it may be periodically washed in the bottom drawer of a dishwasher.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] The processing module 44 may be a freestanding unit as shown. If desired, however, the processing module 44 may alternately be installed under a kitchen counter. When the

processing module 44 is installed under a counter, the top 46 of the processing module 44 may sit in a hole in the counter either flush with the counter top or slightly above or below it. Further alternately, the processing module 44 may be installed under a sink with some alteration. In particular, portions of the processing module 44 above the sink bottom ~~48~~ 49 shown in Figure 6 are discarded or relocated to locations below the sink bottom ~~48~~ 49. A hole is provided in the sink bottom ~~48~~49 so that receiving module 32 may still communicate as necessary with the processing module 44. A plug, not shown, seals the hole when the apparatus is not in use. Alternately or additionally, parts of the processing module 44 that are accessible to the hole are made waterproof and configured so that water will not run out of the sink through the processing module 44. When the processing module 44 is mounted under a counter or sink, at least the user interface parts of the system controller 50 may be separated from the remainder of the processing module 44 and mounted in a location convenient to the user.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] Figure 7 shows aspects of how the receiving module 32 interacts with the processing module 44. In part A, the receiving module 32 is placed on a gate 52 of the processing module 44. The user may then push a button on the system controller 50 ~~which~~ that causes a motor, solenoid, or hydraulic or pneumatic cylinder or other mechanism, not shown, to open the gate 52. Alternately, the processing module 44 ~~can~~ may be configured such that the gate 52 opens when user passes his or her hand in front of a motion detector (infrared sensor) on the processing module ~~32. Further alternately~~44. Alternately, the processing module 44 ~~can~~ may be configured such that the gate 52 opens when a sensor on the processing module ~~32~~44 detects the presence of the receiving module 32.

Please replace paragraph [0055] with the following amended paragraph:

[0055] After the waste is transferred to the processing module 44, the receiving module 32 will be empty and the system controller will cause the gate ~~50~~ 52 to open. The user then reaches into the processing unit 44, lifts the handle of the receiving module 32 and lifts it out. The user then pushes a button on the system controller 50 to instruct it to close the gate 52. Optionally, the processing module 44 may be fitted with sensors that signal the system controller 50 to close

the gate 52 when the receiving module 32 has been fully removed. As discussed below, the inside of the receiving module 32 will have been rinsed with water at the end of the processing steps, optionally with heated water or water containing a disinfectant. If desired, however, the user may also spray the inside of the receiving module 32 with a cleaner, anti-microbial agent or scent-neutralizer after removing it from the processing module 44.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] The apparatus 30 may also have the components of the receiving module 32, processing module 44 and system controller 50 merged into a single appliance body. In this case, some elements required to connect the receiving module 32 to the processing module 44, as described above, are not required. For example, components of the receiving module 32 may be permanently located in the position shown in Part C of Figure 7. The gate 52 and track 54 and other components may be removed and the lid 38 of the receiving module 32 made to open directly to the outside of the apparatus. In that configuration, a user brings all waste to be processed to the apparatus 30 for insertion through the lid 38. However, an alternate means of causing the processing module 44 to start is required since the action of engaging the receiving module 32 no longer performs that function. For example, the lid 38 may be provided with a sensor ~~which~~ that signals for processing to start every time that the lid 38 is closed. Alternately, the controller 50 may be provided with a start button and the user required to indicate when processing should start by activating the button, a lever or similar device. ~~Further alternately~~ Alternately, the receiving module 32 may be fitted with weight or level sensors and the controller 50 adapted to start processing when a threshold weight or height of organic matter is present in the receiving module 32. These methods may also be combined or other methods used. For example, processing may begin when a threshold weight of organic matter is reached unless the user bushes a button or switch to start processing before the threshold is reached. Such an integrated apparatus 30 may also be placed in its entirety under a sink. In such a case, the lid 38 may protrude through the sink so that water does not drain out of the sink through the apparatus 30 when not intended and the normal sink drain retained. ~~Also~~ In addition, the presence of the lid 38 may encourage users not to put soap or cleaning chemicals that may be

used in a sink into the apparatus while still making it possible to add water to the receiving module ~~30~~ 32 by simply turning on the tap to the sink while the lid 38 is open. However, the apparatus 30 may also be used without a lid 38, or with a lid 38 or other closure that may be attached or closed only while processing waste, and receive matter directly from the ordinary sink drain. In this case, since there will be times when very large amounts of water are discharged from the sink which would otherwise require very frequent processing, the receiving module 32 may be provided with a large screened outlet to drain partway up its side. In that way, some water, as is useful for processing, may remain in the receiving module, while excess water flows through. The outlet is closed while processing. Optionally, a diverter may be inserted between the sink and the apparatus 30. The diverter allows solid matter to drop to the apparatus 30 while passing excess water to a drain.

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] Figure 6 ~~and 8 show~~shows the processing mechanisms 58 of the processing module 44 and working parts of the receiving module 32 in greater detail. ~~The~~Also referring to Figure 8, the receiving module 32 has a frame ~~60 that~~60 that may be made, for example, of stainless steel and supports the other parts of the receiving module 32. A perforated liner 62 lines the inner space where raw waste is held. The holes in the perforated liner 62 are sized so that only organic matter that has been reduced to a desired size will pass through them. Blades 64 are mounted inside of the perforated liner 62 for reducing the organic waste to size. In some embodiments, the blades 64 are covered by blade covers (not shown) which are withdrawn when the receiving module 32 is engaged to protect against the user touching the blades 64 while inserting waste. Two sets of blades 64 are shown, but a single set of blades 64 may also be used.

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

[0058] The blades 64 are mounted to a male blade power feed 66 that engages a female blade power feed 68 when the receiving module 32 is engaged in the processing module 44. The female blade power feed 68 is driven by a blade pulley 70 that is attached to a motor 74 (shown only in Figure 6) through a main axle 72. The blades 64 may differ in size and shape. Alternately, each blade 64 may be attached to a different one of two concentric male blade power

feeds 66. Each of the two male power feeds 66 engages a different one of two concentric female blade power ~~fees~~ feeds 68 when the receiving module 32 is engaged. Each of the two female power feeds 68 may be driven by a different one of two blade pulleys 70. The two blade pulleys 70 (shown in Figure 8) may be attached to the same main axle 72. However, either the two female power feeds 68 or the two blade pulleys 70, or both, may have different diameters such that each blade 64 moves at different speeds. By the variations in blade size, shape or speed, each blade~~s~~ 64 may be optimized to act on a different size or types of organic matter.

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] Reduced pieces of organic matter and water passes through the perforated liner 62, through water take out channels 84 and drain connections 86 to the processing module 44. (labeled in figure 6). Drain valves 88 in the processing module 44 are open while the motor 74 is turned on. A drain sensor 90 senses when pieces of organic matter are no longer passing into the processing module 44 and then signals the motor 74 to stop after a short period of time so that the receiving module 32 will be rinsed with water from the water jet. In some embodiments, the rinsing water is heated or injected with a disinfectant. Once the receiving module 32 is empty, the gate ~~50~~ 52 opens and the user may remove the receiving module 32.

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

[0061] The water and pieces of organic matter pass into a forming chamber 92 in the processing module 44. As this happens, binder, or a mix of binder and other additives, is injected through a binder inlet 94. The binder is drawn from a binder reservoir 108 (shown in Figure 6) which the user ~~can~~ may refill or replace from the front of the processing module 44. The binder is mixed with the pieces of organic matter by the force of its injection and the turbulence of the water entering the forming chamber 92. Alternately, the binder inlet 94 and reservoir 108 (shown in figure 6) may be omitted and the user may deposit binder into the receiving module 32 before connecting it to the processing module 44. Further ~~alternately~~, the binder inlet 94 may be adapted to mate with an inlet of the receiving module 32 such that binder is injected in the receiving module 32 on or directly after engaging the modules 32~~,44~~. 44

together. By these alternatives, the binder or other additives are mixed with the organic waste as it is reduced in size.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] A weight sensor 116 communicates with the screen floor 96 and senses the weight of the pieces of organic matter (and water attached to them) resting on the screen floor. The system controller 50 (shown in figure 6) compares the sensed weight to specifications relating to the output through an algorithm that determines whether enough organic matter is present. The algorithm may simply compare the weight of the organic matter to a minimum weight for the selected outcome. Alternately, the system controller ~~40~~ 50 may allow the user to indicate what sort of waste has been entered. The indication may be made, for example, by pushing one of a set of buttons indicating whether the bulk of any load of matter is one of raw vegetables, cereals, absorbent paper, cooked leftovers or other options each time a load of matter is transferred from the receiving module 32. The system controller tracks the additional weight sensed by weight sensor 116 after each load of organic matter is added to the processing module 44 and a parameter indicating which button was pushed when the organic matter was transferred from the receiving module. The algorithm includes parameters corresponding to an estimated moisture content assigned to the different types of waste, calculates the estimated moisture content of the total amount of organic matter present, and adjusts the threshold weight according to a formula accounting for the estimated moisture content and the selected outcome. The outcome or output specifications are either preset or programmed by the user. The system controller ~~40~~ 50 prevents further process steps from occurring until enough organic matter is collected. If the system controller 50 determines that an appropriate amount of organic matter has been collected while more organic matter is still being reduced in the receiving module 32, the reducing operation is shut down until the output is made and removed from the processing module 44. While the outcome is being made, the system controller 50 may be programmed to release the receiving module 32 to the user. Alternately, the user may over-ride all of these functions or program the system controller so that further process steps occur right after the receiving module 32 is emptied. In this case, random sizes, shapes or numbers of outcomes will be produced.

Please replace paragraph [0065] with the following amended paragraph:

[0065] Moisture collected through moisture scavenging port 104 during drying may be released to atmosphere either directly or through filters to remove odors. ~~Alternately, referring to~~ Referring to Figure 6, the collected moisture may by converted into liquid water by connecting the moisture scavenging port 104 (shown in Figure 8) to a moisture input 130 to a moisture liquefying device 132 such as a condenser, dehumidifier or other device. The moisture liquefying device 132 may also include, or be connected in series, ~~to the gas flow,~~ with an odor reducing device 140, such as a gas porous membrane module or activated charcoal canister, to reduce odors before air or other gases are discharged through an exhaust 142. Liquid water produced from the vapor may be sent through a recycled vapor drain 134 to a household drain and leave the processing module 44. Alternately, the liquid water may flow through the recycled vapor drain 134 to a receptacle 136 for collected water within or connected to the processing module 44. Similarly, forming chamber drain 100 may be connected to a household drainpipe such that free liquid water leaves the processing module 44 or to a forming chamber water input 138 to receptacle 136. The user may empty the water in the receptacle 136 from time to time or the receptacle 136 may be fitted with an overflow 144 to a household drain. The receptacle 136 may be closed, fitted with filters on any outlet, treated with ozone or UV radiation, chilled or otherwise treated or configured to minimize the creation or escape of odors. The receptacle may be connected to the water pump 76 through a water supply line 146 and sized to be able to provide the source of water to wet the organic matter in the receiving module 32. In this way, no water, other than an initial fill of the receptacle 136, is required to process the waste. Moisture may also be collected, for reuse or to remove it from the processing module 44, by allowing it to condense on surfaces of processing module 44 from where it drips or runs down surfaces to the forming chamber drain 100.

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following amended paragraph:

[0066] In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 6, ~~since~~ because the solid is drier than the raw organic waste, and both liquid and gaseous forms of water are at least partially recaptured, the processing module 44 may produce an excess of water such that the receptacle 136 only needs to

be filled on initial start up of the apparatus 30. However, the water in the receptacle 136 contains organic matter. The concentration of the organic matter is reduced by the recycled water from the moisture liquefying device 132 and so does not tend to become excessive for use in processing organic waste. However, the water in receptacle 136 does not provide an entirely clean source of water for rinsing the receiving module 32. For rinsing, switch 148 may be operated to connect water pump 76 (shown in figure 8) with a household water inlet 150 or to another reservoir dedicated to holding rinse water. Alternately, a water treatment device such as a clarifier or ~~filter~~ filter may be added to the receptacle or in line with water supply line 146 to treat the water in receptacle 136 to make it suitable for rinsing. Further alternately, clean water reclaimed from vapor produced while drying may be provided first to a reservoir for rinsing water and, if and when that reservoir is filled, to drain or to ~~reservoir~~ receptacle 136 for process water. In that way, clean rinsing water may still be obtained without requiring a hook-up to a household water supply. The receptacle 136 may also be configured or used to decant the water entering it, with only an upper portion lean in solids re-used as water and a lower portion rich in solids either sent to drain or returned to the forming chamber 92, ~~for example~~ (shown in figure 8), by flowing it onto a solid that is drying in the forming chamber 92. Whichever line supplies water for rinsing may also be fitted with a heater or chemical injector if a heater or disinfecting rinse is desired.

Please replace paragraph [0067] with the following amended paragraph:

[0067] Referring again to Figure 8, after the solid is dry and heating elements 102 are turned of, plungers 118 lift the solid upwards and move it sideways or rotate it so that it drops to a receiving platform 110. Alternately, heating elements 102 may be configured to not protrude into the solid or to be retractable and plungers 118 configured to slide the solid sideways off of the screen floor 96 through a hinged side panel in forming chamber 92. Further alternately, forming chamber 92 may be configured so that the user ~~can~~ may slide it out on a track to remove the solid. The system controller 50 indicates that the solid is complete and the user may open a service door 112 or pull out the forming chamber 92. Forming chamber 92 may also be made to slide out of the processing module 44 automatically when the solid is complete. The user may

then take the solid away or store it in a pull out drawer 114 (shown in figure 6) at the base of the apparatus 30. If desired, output ~~can~~ may be produced that is sufficiently dry to be stored for two or three weeks or a month before it is thrown out, recycled, composted or used for another purpose.

Please replace paragraph [0068] with the following amended paragraph:

[0068] Referring again to Figure 6, the ~~The~~ apparatus 30 may also be adapted for other configurations. For example, rather than standing in a fixed position, apparatus 30 may be made partially mobile through the use of 360 degree free-roaming casters 156 or other mobility devices such as wheels. Apparatus 30 may also be converted into a countertop unit by removing or relocating parts of the apparatus 30 below countertop base 152 shown in Figure 6. To make a countertop apparatus 30 more compact and less tall, the receiving platform 110 is replaced by a smaller volume pull out tray 154 ~~which~~that also, in use, provides limited storage of produced outcomes. In both free-roaming and countertop versions of apparatus 30, the use of elements described above to recycle water may be sued to avoid the need for any hook-ups to household water supplies or drains although the user is then required to fill and enter one or more reservoirs. Alternately, releasable water inlet and drain connections may be used. For example, an inlet line may have a spring-loaded connection to a fitting on a sink aerator and a drain line may be run from the apparatus 30 to discharge into a sink. A combined connection, for example a sink mounted inlet and drain connection as used for portable dishwashers, may also be used. Depending on relative elevations, a free-roaming apparatus 30 may require a pump to discharge water to drain.

Please replace paragraph [0069] with the following amended paragraph:

[0069] For a countertop apparatus 30, reducing size is generally desirable and so many features of the apparatus 30 described above may be removed. For example, water recycling features may be deleted to make the apparatus 30 smaller even though water and drain hook-ups may be required. The system controller 50 and the processes it controls may be made simpler or less automated which may reduce the size of the system controller 50 and also remove the need for some related elements, such as sensors. A less automated apparatus 30 may, for example,

require the user to input binder into the receiving module 32 to avoid the need for binder reservoir 108 and binder transfer elements. Requiring the user to add water to the receiving module 32 and rinse or wash the receiving module 32 manually or in a dish washer may remove the need for a water pump 76 and various fluid conduits, valves and connections. The apparent size of a countertop apparatus 30 may also be reduced by re-locating some of the large components. For example, motor 74 may be inverted and relocated to where reservoir 136 is shown in Figure 6 to reduce the height of the apparatus 30. Using a pull-out forming chamber 92 as the means to remove the outcome, as discussed above, also helps reduce the height of the apparatus as no separate pull out tray 154 or mechanism to move the outcome to the pull out tray 154 are then required. As for an under sink apparatus 30, components above line 48 in Figure 6 may be deleted or re-located. In particular, for a countertop apparatus 30, requiring the receiving module 32 to be placed through a gate 52 requires the user to lift the receiving module 32 to an awkward height. Instead, components above line 48 may be removed at least as required to allow the receiving module 32 to be placed directly onto the mating components directly below line 48. A latch or other mechanism may then be added to releasably secure the receiving module 32 in place and, as discussed above, the latch or other mechanism may interact with or power other sensors or functions. Alternately, the gate 52 and its related components may be retained ~~by~~ by the track 54 reduced in height, for example to about one half of the height of the receiving module 32 such that in position C of Figure 7, the receiving module 32 protrudes from the processing module 44. In an embodiment, an inverted motor 74 is located behind where the receiving module 32 sits on the processing module 44, a pull out forming chamber 92 is used, there are no components above line 48 where the receiving module 32 sits on the processing module 44 and a latch is used to engage the receiving module 32 to the processing module 44. In this embodiment, the bottom of the apparatus 30 is near the bottom of the forming tray 92 and the receiving module 32 only needs to be lifted several cm from the countertop to engage it with the processing module 44.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A process for producing dried pieces of organic waste by reducing raw organic waste to pieces and drying the raw organic waste to a moisture content at which it is generally free of odors caused by microbial activity.

Applicant believes the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendments to the specification which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.